

## Message Text

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62

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-25 IO-14 ACDA-19 SAM-01 AID-20

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 EB-11

DRC-01 /183 W

----- 021144

R 051500Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 7590

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS CAIRO 4903

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR SY

SUBJ: ASSAD INTERVIEW IN AHRAN

1. AHRAH JULY 5 FEATURES INTERVIEW WITH ASAD BY STAFFER MAKRAM MUHAMMED AHMAD. HIGHLIGHTS FOLLOW, IN PARAPHRASED, SUMMARY FORM:  
(A) DISENGAGEMENT: DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT, WHICH IS FIRST STEP TOWARD TOTAL WITHDRAWAL AND INSURING PALESTINIAN RIGHTS, WAS DELAYED SIX MONTHS NOT BY RARG BUT BY GOI WHICH AD#THOUGH SYRIA WAS UNABLE

CONTINUE WAR OF ATTRITION. SARG POSITON THROUGHOUT DISENAGEMENT TALKS WAS IN LINE WITH CONDITION ACCEPTED FOR CEASEFIRE, "WHEN WE TOLD WALDHEIM OF OUR ACCEPTANCE OF RES 338, WHICH STIPULATES TOTAL IRRAELI

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WITHDRAWAL AND INSURANCE OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE'S RIGHTS."

(B) GENEVA: WE WILL GO TO GENEVA IF THIS WILL BRING ABOUT JUST PEACE. WE MUST BE VIGILANT THAT GOE DOES NOT USE CONFERENCE TO BUY TIME. WIL WILL NEVER WAVER ON TWO CONITIONS FOR PEACE: WITHDRAWAL AND PALESTINIAN RIGHTS. "ARAB AND INTERNATIONAL CIRCLES UNDERSTAND" THAT CONFERENCE WILL MEET IN SEPTEMBER. SARG-GOE TALKS NOW CONCERN METHOD OF ACTION AT CONFERENCE.

(C) JORDAN: ASKED IF KHADDAM'S TALKS IN JORDAN DEALT WITH CONCILIATION

BETWEEN GOJ AND RESISTANCE, ASAD SAID RECENT CONTACTS WITH AMMAN DID NOT AIM AT THAT. BUT, AS ARABS, WE ARE COMMITTED TO CONTINUE CONSULTA-

TIONS.

(D) SADAT-ASAD MEETING: SARG-GOE UNDERSTANDING IS MASTAY OF ARAB SECURITY. BILATERAL SUMMIT WILL BE HELD SOON IN CAIRO OR DAMASCUS, AND MAY PROCEED BOTH LIMITED ARAB SUMMIT FOR GENEVA PARTICIPANTS AND RABAT SUMMIT.

(E) US ROLE: SOLE GUARANTEE OF POLITICAL SOLUTION IS THE WILL OF EGYPT AND SYRIA. USG REALIZES SHORTCOMING OF ITS PREVIOUS POSITION. WE MUST EXERT EFFORTS TO DEVELOP USG STAND, WHICH IS IN HARMONY WITH US INTERESTS. AMERICA IS COMMITTED TO WORK FOR WORLD PEACE; WE MUST DEEPEN COMMITMENT. HIGH RANKING SYRIAN WILL SOON LEAVE FOR US TO DISCUSS

"EXPECTED DEVELOPMENTS", OCCUPATION AND PALESTINIAN RIGHTS; TALKS MAY DEAL WITH "COOPERATION".

(F) USSR: SOVIET CONTRIBUTION TO PEACE EFFORTS IS ESSENTIAL. FRIENDSHIP WITH USSR DOES NOT PREVENT ARABS FROM WINNING NEW FRIENDS. ASAD SAID HE HAS NO INFO ON BREZHNEV VISIT TO DAMASCUS.

(G) US GRANT TO ISRAEL: ASKED ABOUT USG'S WRITING OFF \$500 MILLION MILITARY AID TO ISRAEL, ASAD SEEMED TO SKIRT THE QUESTION, REPLYING THAT FRIENDSHIP DOES NOT MEAN AGREEING ON EVERYTHING; NEVERTHELESS, USSR (SIC) IS A FRIENDLY COUNTRY.

(H) OCTOBER WAR: DECISION TO GO TO WAR WAS TAKEN AT BORG AL-ARAB (NEAR ALEXANDRIA) BY ASAD AND SADAT ON APRIL 23 AND 24, 1973 AND CONFIRMED AT THEIR DAMASCUS MEETING IN AUGUST.

(I) ECONOMY: SYRIAN PRIVATE SECTOR WILL BE GIVEN EVERY CHANCE TO PLAY ROLE IN STRAIGHTENING NATIONAL ECONOMY; PUBLIC SECTOR WILL CONTINUE PLAY ITS IMPORTANT ROLE.

EILTS

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED. UNCLASSIFIED  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, SY, (ASSAD)  
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